

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9432

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM TECH PFOR VE AR BR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM'S POST-MORTEM

ON VISIT TO ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5987(NOTAL)

1. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON SEP 7 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM ARGENTINA, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN THE ARGENTINE-VENEZUELAN COMMUNIQUE(REFTEL) WAS THE AGREEMENT TO HAVE BILATERAL CONSULATIONS ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. HE WAS MORE RESERVED ON ARGENTINE-VENEZUELAN COOPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD, NOTING ONLY THAT PRACTICAL ACCORDS IN AGRICULTURE WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY DELEGATIONS OF SPECIALISTS.

2. ON THE PROSPECTS FOR BINATIONAL ENTERPRISES, ESCOVAR SAID THAT SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF LATIN AMERICAN MULTINATIONALS EXISTED "IN THE CONTEXT OF SELA," IT SHOULD ALSO BE QUITE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH BINATIONAL COMPANIES IN THAT CONTEXT. ESCOVAR REAFFIRMED THAT HE DID NOT "DISCUSS NUMBERS" IN BUENOS AIRES AND THAT REPORTS OF A LARGE GOV LOAN TO ARGENTINA WERE PURE SPECULATION. ASKED BY
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A JOURNALIST ON SEP 9 ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT

PEREZ TO ARGENTINA, ESCOVAR REPLIED, " AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME." ANOTHER NEWS STORY REPORTED ESCOVAR AS STATING THAT PEREZ WILL VISIT ARGENTINA "NEXT YEAR."

3. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS HERE DO NOT VIEW RESULTS OF VISIT AS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AND ARE WONDERING WHY ESCOVAR MADE THE TRIP. FROM THE GOV STANDPOINT, HOWEVER, ESCOVAR'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA WAS SUCCESSFUL, SINCE HE OBTAINED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH ENDORSED THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GOV'S FOREIGN POLICY-- DEFENSE OF BASIC EXPORTS, SELA, PRODUCERS ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY--APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT ESCOVAR MAY HAVE BEEN QUIETLY REVIEWING THE ARGENTINE SCENE IN CONNECTION WITH A FUTURE VISIT BY PRESIDENT PEREZ. PROSPECT OF BILATERAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD WILL BE ENCOURAGING TO VENEZUELA'S FLEDGLING NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM.
SHLAUDEMAM

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